

were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Detlev Mehliis, head, United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission into the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Memorandum on the National Flood Insurance Program

October 12, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: National Flood Insurance Program

I have reviewed your request for approval to issue notes to the Secretary of the Treasury in excess of \$1.5 billion, but not to exceed \$3.5 billion, for the National Flood Insurance Program and hereby grant approval for you to do so.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Teleconference Remarks With United States Troops in Iraq

October 13, 2005

The President. Captain Kennedy?

Capt. Brent Kennedy. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Well, it's good to see you. Thanks. Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedule to allow me to visit with you a little bit. I've got some questions for you here in a minute, but I do want to share some thoughts with you.

First, I want to thank the members of the 42d Infantry Division and Task Force Liberty for serving our country with such distinction and honor. I want you to know that the mission you are on is vital to achieving peace and to protecting America. One of my most solemn duties, a duty that you have joined me on, is to protect the American people.

And we're facing an enemy that is ruthless and coldblooded, an enemy that actually has a philosophy, and the philosophy is so opposite of ours. It is the exact opposite of what America stands for. We stand for religious

freedom and freedom to speak and women's rights and capacity for people to realize their dreams. They stand for a vision that is—doesn't believe in freedom, that if you don't agree with their narrow point of view, that you're subject to reprisal.

And so I want to thank you for being a part of this global war. And Iraq is a part of the war, because the enemy understands that a free Iraq will be a blow to their vision and their strategy of spreading dominance throughout the broader Middle East. And so I want to thank you. When you e-mail your families, you tell them how proud the Commander in Chief is of their patience and their support as well.

One of the tactics of the enemy is to shake our will. Part of their strategy is to use the killing of innocent people to get the American Government to pull you out of there before the mission is complete. I'm going to assure you of this, that so long as I'm the President, we're never going to back down; we're never going to give in; we'll never accept anything less than total victory. It's important for you to know that. It's important for the enemy to know that as well.

We've got a strategy, and it's a clear strategy. On the one hand, we will hunt down these killers and terrorists and bring them to justice and train the Iraqi forces to join us in that effort. The second part of the strategy is a political strategy, based upon the knowledge that you defeat a backward, dark philosophy with one that's hopeful. And that hopeful philosophy is one based upon universal freedom. I'm very impressed that the Iraqi Government has continued to work to have a constitution that attracts Sunnis and Shi'as and Kurds. They've worked hard to get a constitution, and now the people of Iraq are going to get to vote once again, on a constitution, in this case.

And I want to thank you for providing the security necessary for people to exercise their free will. You're part of an historic mission that is laying the foundation for peace. I am convinced that when we look back at this time in history, those who follow us, whether it be in the armed services or in the political process, will say, "Thank goodness the United States of America didn't lose our